

A More Perfect Union

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union...”, These words written in our Constitution hold a promise of equality that we as Americans were expected to uphold. Centuries ago our founders came to America to be free from the British. The new Americans knew what it felt like to have their freedom taken, they vowed for that to never happen again. They wanted to form a more perfect union in peace and equality. This seems achievable, but we still can improve our more perfect union.

Years ago, Americans drove Natives out of their land and relocated them to reservations in America. The Native Americans were promised sovereignty and the right to do whatever they want on their own land, to an extent. The Federal Government still owned the land and the Natives had rule over the land and laws. While Natives have had sovereignty before any documents were even written, the Federal Government more often than not had neglected that fact. Still, nonetheless, tribes have established their own government, courts, and way of life.

The Federal Government and Native Americans have had many differences in actions and opinions through the decades. The Americans have more than once neglected their treaties that have been established with the Natives. Not all is terrible between the nations, The Americans have given the Native Nations health care and protections. In this way we cannot achieve a more perfect union. To achieve a more perfect union we need equal respect and action.

Jimcy McGirt a 46 year old Native American from the Oklahoma Seminole tribe raped a four year old girl. He was tried and found guilty in the state of Oklahoma. In 2020, McGirt argued that the state of Oklahoma could not try him because he was a Native American, and his

crime was committed on Tribal land. This case was brought to the Supreme Court where they were asked the question about Native American sovereignty. The Supreme Court tackled the question of which lands promised to the natives are still sovereign. The case ended in a 5 to 4 vote saying that the land promised to the natives was still their land and will be recognized as such.

McGirt was returned back to the Seminole Tribe Reservation where he was tried by their court and found guilty of his crimes. He now serves life imprisonment with no hope of parole. Many are happy to know that Jimcy McGirt will never harm a child again but this could have been an easier conclusion from the start if we had just turned him to the Tribal Court first. The United States has had problems with identifying Native Nations before and it has brought us legal trouble throughout history.

Our relationship with Native Nations is what is keeping us from a more perfect union. Many times we have failed to recognize Reservations all together. The Federal Government has created plans to build through Native Land in 2020 (now canceled) without consulting the Native Americans first. Nowadays we do not issue any more treaties to Native Americans, leaving their numbers dwindling. Not all is bad though, in turn we give those recognized reservations protection and healthcare, they get their own laws and legal systems as well. If we could change to a more cohesive relationship with those who we share our country with, we would make great strides to a more perfect union.

We are not where we used to be and that is progress but we are certainly not where we need to be. Everyday Americans work toward our goals and securing a healthy future. A more perfect union is something that at our current state is not capable of obtaining. Our Native relations are in need of help and can not be ignored. From the beginning we knew and now it is

imminent. With steps toward a brighter future we are bound to rise up. McGirt was the stepping stone, it is the awakening we needed now we need to act on these signs and secure our more perfect union.

Works Cited

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